

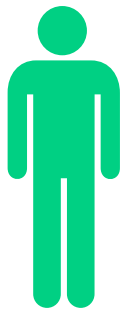


Empowering Data-Driven Health Care Solutions

Annual Report 2018-19



BioGrid Facts



41

Number of Members at 30 June 2019

representing
81 institutions



256

Journal publications
reported to date
that have utilised
BioGrid for their
research.



156

active research projects during 2018-19,
represented across all states and the ACT

Thirty-eight



Current Institution Ethics Approvals
at 30 June 2019

Contents

02 Members and Collaborators

04 Chair's Report

05 Chief Executive Officer's Report

06 About BioGrid

10 Projects

- VCCC Data Driven Research Hub
- Indigenous Cardiovascular Health Services Research Project
- ePAD Clinical Registry
- Australasian Diabetes Data Network
- Australian Psoriasis Registry
- GenV: Newborn Biospecimen Collection
- Student Project

14 Directors' Report

21 Financial Report

27 Directors' Declaration

Members and Collaborators

BioGrid Australia Ltd is a not for profit company limited by guarantee. Its members are health services, universities and research institutes. At the time of this report, BioGrid's overarching evergreen collaboration agreement has been executed with 41 institutions (representing 81 sites across Australia) covering the management of governance, intellectual property, data access, undertaking projects, commercialisation and publications.



ACT Health
Canberra Hospital

AlfredHealth

Alfred Health
The Alfred
Caulfield Hospital
Sandringham Hospital



Austin Health
Austin Hospital
Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital



Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute



Ballarat Health Services
Ballarat Base Hospital
Queen Elizabeth Centre



Barwon Health
Geelong Hospital



Bendigo Health
Bendigo Hospital



Central Adelaide Local Health Network
Royal Adelaide Hospital
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital



Eastern Health
Angliss Hospital
Box Hill Hospital
Healesville Hospital
Maroondah Hospital



Fiona Stanley Hospital
Perth



Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service*
Gold Coast University Hospital
Robina Hospital



Goulburn Valley Health
Goulburn Valley Hospital



Hudson Institute of Medical Research



Latrobe Regional Hospital



Mater Health Services
Brisbane



Melbourne Health
The Royal Melbourne Hospital



Metro North Hospital and Health Service
Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital
Prince Charles Hospital



Metro South Hospital and Health Service*
Princess Alexandra Hospital



Monash Health
Monash Medical Centre, Clayton
Monash Medical Centre, Moorabbin
Casey Hospital
Dandenong Hospital



Monash University*



**Murdoch Childrens
Research Institute**



**Northern Adelaide
Local Health Network**
Lyell McEwin Hospital
Modbury Hospital



Northern Health
The Northern Hospital



Peninsula Health
Frankston Hospital
Rosebud Hospital



**Peter MacCallum
Cancer Centre**



**Radiation Oncology
Victoria**



**St Vincent's Hospital,
Melbourne**



**South Western Sydney
Local Health District**
Campbelltown Hospital
Liverpool Hospital
Bankstown Hospital



**St John of God
Health Care**
Ballarat, Bendigo, Berwick, Bunbury,
Burwood, Geelong, Geraldton, Midland,
Murdoch, Mt Lawley, Richmond,
Subiaco and Warrnambool Hospitals



**Tasmanian Government
Department of Health
and Human Services**
Royal Hobart Hospital
Launceston General Hospital



**The Royal
Children's Hospital**



**The Royal Women's
Hospital**



**The University of
New South Wales**



**The University of
Melbourne**



**The University of
Western Australia**



**The Walter and Eliza Hall
Institute of Medical
Research**



**Victorian Comprehensive
Cancer Centre**



Western Health
Footscray Hospital
Sunshine Hospital
The Williamstown Hospital



**West Moreton Hospital
and Health Service**
Ipswich Hospital, Brisbane

Chair's Report



It is with great pride that I present my first report as Chair of BioGrid. It has been a privilege being part of the growth journey of this unique organisation since joining the BioGrid Board in 2017. I must first acknowledge and thank Professor Bryan Williams, the inaugural Chair of BioGrid who stepped down in January this year from both his Chair and Director positions on the Board, after leading BioGrid with a steady hand since 2009.

Bryan championed the work done in the early days to transition an innovative idea of a platform for data linkage into a viable business, which he and the Board succeeded in doing with the help of the operational team. He was also instrumental in engaging clinical champions to support BioGrid, both financially and with recognition of the unique service BioGrid was able to provide.

I'd like to thank my fellow Board members for their faith in me to continue the journey that Bryan began, and welcome two new BioGrid directors.

In August 2018 Dr Paul Cooper and Dr James Dromey joined BioGrid as directors of the company. Dr Cooper is a strategic advisor who assists organisations make the most effective use of information and digital capabilities, and he brings extensive strategic experience from the government sector to the Board. Dr Dromey is the Chief Operating Officer at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute and brings with him extensive business development and commercialisation skills in the medical research sector.

BioGrid is now moving into a new phase of its growth. Our key objective as an organisation is to ensure that BioGrid remains sustainable for the future so that we can continue to support major national and international research initiatives requiring data governance and linkage services.

During the last financial year, the Board undertook a comprehensive review of its governance structures. After extensive engagement with members, collaborators and stakeholders, a strategy to reform BioGrid's governance and implement a business and governance model to ensure sustainability for the organisation was adopted. This strategy was designed to ensure the board's skills matrix would match BioGrid's evolving needs, and to increase member influence and oversight of BioGrid and its operations, reflecting an organisation in a growth phase.

This year, we commenced the implementation of that governance and business development strategy, with the support of six BioGrid 'Premium' members who provided \$365,000 in bridging funding to BioGrid to enable this work to be done. As a not-for-profit company, BioGrid operates very leanly, with cost effectiveness for our members always at the forefront of our operations. However, this does at times result in strategic and operational changes being challenging financially, so we are very appreciative of this additional investment by our Premium members. As a professional in the field, I feel it is also a wonderful example of how

the Australian medical research community works together to ensure better outcomes for all, and I am proud to be part of it.

A Business Advisory Committee was established at the beginning of this financial year, to monitor and review on a quarterly basis new business development activity and progress, and address issues promptly with key stakeholders. The chair is Dr Dromey and the members are Dr Paul Barrett (University of Melbourne), Professor Maarten IJzerman (Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre), Professor Peter Gibbs (Western Health) and Mr Ray Van Kuyk (Austin Health).

The Board also expanded the Audit and Risk Committee to become the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee, responsible for monitoring and reviewing the company's progress against forecast income. This committee includes a new non-director and finance representative from Melbourne Health and is now a three-member committee with two directors. Mr George Kapitelli, (Executive Director, Finance) joined the committee during September and, following his resignation from Melbourne Health, was replaced by Mr Glenn Murphy, Finance Director. Mr Murphy attended his first meeting during February. Many thanks to both for their contribution, and to Mr David Polonsky for his leadership of this committee.

In terms of business development, which is a key plank of the new business strategy, there has been an increased focus on sharing information with our members and clinical investigators by conducting face to face information sessions introducing our new business and sales model.

Last year we welcomed one new member, the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service (Gold Coast University Hospital), Gold Coast campus. Thank you to our committed and passionate Member Management Committee, who join with us in seeing a bright future for BioGrid in supporting the significant research projects requiring our unique data linkage and sharing services. It's a key element of our offering that our services are designed for and by researchers, and we appreciate the continued support of our members.

I must also acknowledge the dedication and hard work of our CEO Maureen Turner. She leads a small but exceptional team without whom it would be impossible to operate.

Finally, thank you to all my fellow Board members, Chris Arnold, Dr Paul Cooper, Dr James Dromey, David Polonsky and Prof Karin Verspoor, who continue to work tirelessly setting and achieving fiscal and strategic goals for BioGrid. I look forward to a productive new year of growth and innovation.

Rob Grenfell
Chair, BioGrid Australia Board

Chief Executive Officer's Report



This past year has been an important one for BioGrid. In 2018 we completed an extensive review of our operations in terms of our future growth and sustainability. After over a decade of operations, growing from an innovative idea by researchers to a platform that would change the paradigm of data sharing for clinical research, it was time to review the current environment and ensure readiness for the future.

To do this, we engaged extensively with our members, collaborators and stakeholders, reviewing what was working and what needed to change to better reflect the way clinical researchers and their parent organisations operate. When BioGrid was first established, much of the technology we have today did not exist; there were no electronic medical records, for example. Data breaches were not a known risk then, apart from accidental destruction of paper records.

Today's environment is very different, and the strategies recently developed are designed to address today's challenges and position BioGrid for the future. A refined business and governance model was approved by six 'Premium' BioGrid members, who have provided additional financial support over their standard membership fees. We are very appreciative of this additional investment by our Premium members, which is a much-needed helping hand during our time of transition and a vote of confidence for the work we have done to ensure BioGrid's services remain relevant and useful to our members and the wider medical research community. The leadership shown by our Premium members will contribute significantly to our ability to elevate BioGrid's services to anticipate and meet the future needs of our colleagues in the medical research sector. I'm certain all of BioGrid's members also appreciate this support, which will benefit all who work with us.

Our Board's Business Advisory Committee, established in the last financial year and led by Dr James Dromey, met regularly through this financial year and provided valuable guidance to the BioGrid executive team as we rolled out our new business KPIs, which were designed to put a greater focus on business development activities to create a pipeline of work.

A challenge for us as a company is the often very extended timeframes from the awarding of a grant to one of our members for a research program, through contracting with BioGrid to provide data linkage services or software development, to the point when funds are received by BioGrid. Our Board and Management Committee recognise that ensuring a pipeline of committed work creates certainty for staff and members making it easier to plan over a longer term.

Dr Henry De Aizpurua joined us to work on the key elements for our business development growth, including reviewing and advising on BioGrid's value proposition, marketing collateral and pricing model. As a result, a new user-pays pricing policy was developed in 2018 and socialised with key researcher stakeholders at the beginning of this financial year.

Our stakeholders overwhelmingly supported introduction of the policy, which will be implemented after a comprehensive communications program with all of our members and collaborators. This policy is an important element of ensuring BioGrid's charging regime reflects the true costs of providing our services, underpinning our financial sustainability, while still providing competitive and cost-effective solutions for researchers.

Dr De Aizpurua also assisted with driving new business activity for BioGrid by engaging with key opinion leaders, the pharmaceutical industry, contract research organisations (CROs) and clinical trial groups. This work has been successful in providing the framework for further business development work to grow the BioGrid business model.

While this important work transitioning BioGrid into our next growth phase was occurring, we also achieved a significant milestone in the signing of the Australian Cancer Genomics Medicine Centre (AGCMC) Rare Cancer Portal project contract, representing \$3.77 million over 5 years (2019-2023). In addition we signed the Melbourne Academic Centre for Health (MACH) Indigenous Cardiovascular Health Services Research project contract, for \$105,000 over 2 years. These have placed BioGrid in a sound financial position at the conclusion of this financial year.

I would like to thank our Board and Member Management Committee for their continued enthusiastic support of BioGrid, and in particular our Premium Members who have maintained their faith in the value that BioGrid provides now and will continue to provide into the future.

And finally, a very sincere thank you to our passionate and committed staff, who work tirelessly to ensure our research partners achieve their objectives and share in the excitement of seeing innovative research programs produce outcomes that would not have been easily possible if BioGrid was not involved.

I look forward to the next year of growth and new horizons.

Maureen Turner
CEO, BioGrid Australia

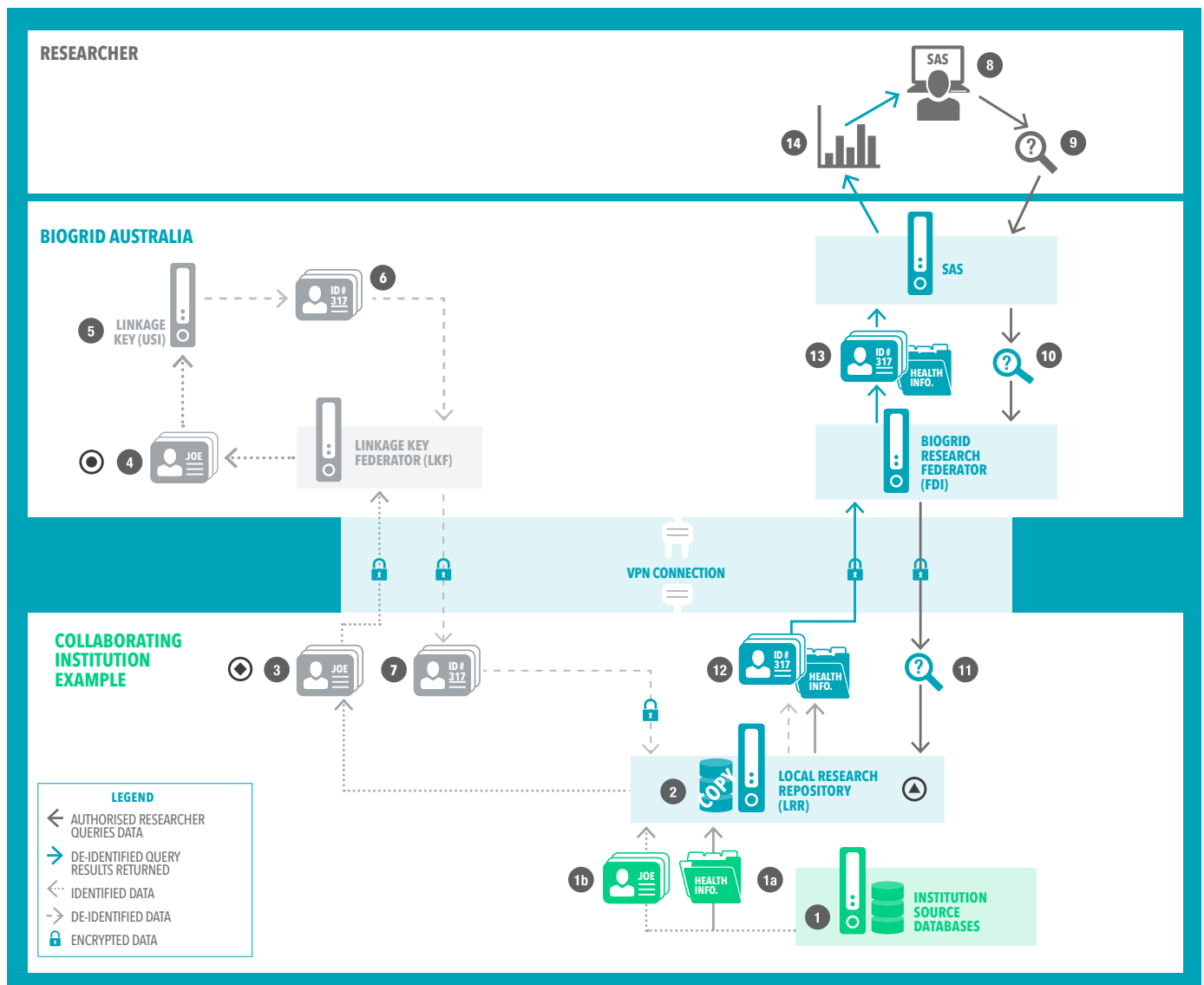
About BioGrid

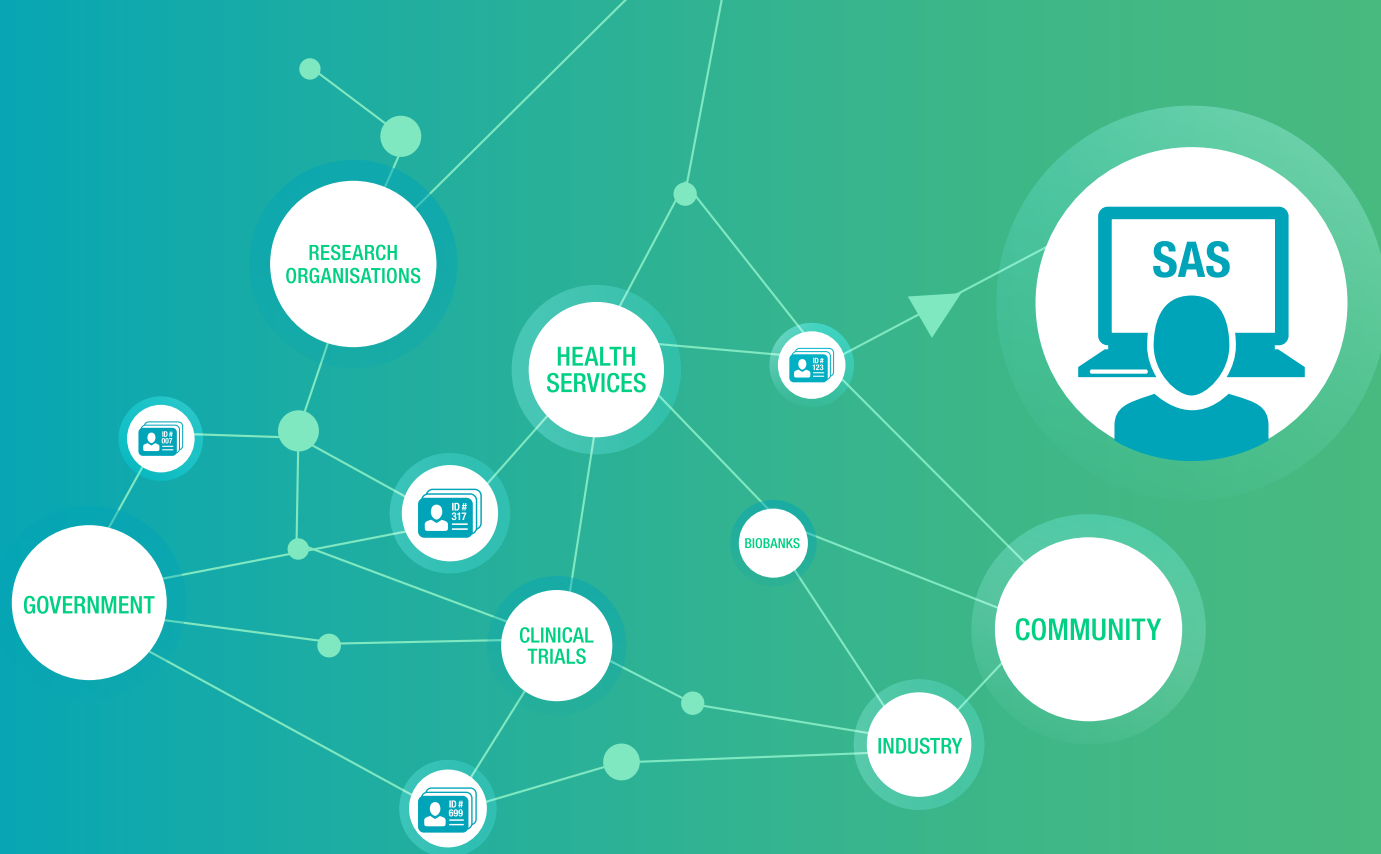
Data governance, security and ethics are at the core of BioGrid's federated data sharing platform that securely links patient level clinical, biospecimen, genetic and imaging data sets across multiple sites and diseases for the purpose of medical research.

BioGrid's infrastructure and data management strategies address the increasing need by authorised researchers to dynamically extract and analyse data from multiple sources whilst protecting patient privacy.

In the health sector, BioGrid is a trusted independent virtual real-time data repository. Investment in BioGrid has facilitated a combination of technology, collaboration and ethics approval processes for data sharing that exist nowhere else in the world.

For more information on how BioGrid works, what data is linked to BioGrid and how to access data, go to www.biogrid.org.au.





1. Patient information is recorded in one or more data sources (i.e. databases, spreadsheets), which are stored on a collaborating institution's computer network. This information comprises clinical health information data and identifiers.
- 1a. Clinical health information data are the collection of facts and opinions about an individual's health and wellbeing. Treatment details are an example of clinical health information data.
- 1b. Identifiers are the data items, which identify the individual who is described within a patient record. A patient's name is an example of an identifier.
2. The patient information is copied into replica data sources, which are stored on the collaborating institution's Local Research Repository (LRR), on a nightly basis or frequency agreed by the collaborating institution.
3. A limited set of identifiers from each new patient record are sent from the replica data sources to BioGrid Australia's Linkage Key Federator (LKF) via a secure encrypted Virtual Private Network (VPN) connection.
4. The Linkage Key Federator (LKF) forwards the identifiers to BioGrid Australia's Linkage Key server. This server hosts the Unique Subject Identifier (USI) database.
5. The identifiers are compared with the USI database's records to establish whether data about the patient already exists within a BioGrid-linked data source.
If a match is found for a patient's data, the patient has previously been allocated a USI. If no match is found for a patient's data, the patient's set of identifiers and a new USI are written to the USI database.
6. The USIs for the matching and non-matching patients are sent back to the LKF.
7. The USIs are sent back to the LRR via a secure encrypted VPN connection and stored with their associated clinical health information data.

8. Once authorised access via the BioGrid Australia Data Access Application System has been provided to the researcher, they can commence querying the de-identified data they have approval to access.
9. The researcher submits a data query to BioGrid Australia's statistical analysis (SAS) computer via the Internet.
10. The SAS computer forwards the query to the FDI.
11. The FDI requests the specified data from each of the relevant LRRs via a secure encrypted VPN connection.
12. The clinical health information data and USIs from applicable patient records are sent to the FDI via a secure encrypted VPN connection. These data are combined into a temporary table. The table is removed from the FDI upon completion of the query.
13. The SAS computer reads and processes data from the temporary table.
14. The SAS computer presents the results of the query to the researcher.

BioGrid provides alternative matching methodology referred to as exact matching using a cryptographic hashing function when individual identifiers cannot be brought together in one place for comparison.

- ⬆ Highly secure hash generating software is installed at collaborating institution. The hashing algorithm is run at collaborating institution's site on the replica data sources. A unique hash value is created for each set of identifying patient data. No identifying information ever leaves the source site.
- ⬇ Unique hash value from each new patient record is sent from the replica data source to BioGrid Australia's Linkage Key Federator (LKF) via a secure encrypted Virtual Private Network (VPN) connection. No identifying information ever leaves the source site.
- ⦿ The LKF synchronises its matches with the BioGrid Australia's Linkage Key server. This server hosts the Unique Subject Identifier (USI) database.

Governance

In the 2017-18 financial year, extensive work was done by a special working group to position BioGrid for growth and sustainability, including a review of the BioGrid business model and governance structure. Work on implementing the recommendations of the working group commenced in the 2018-19 financial year.

To fund the work required during the transition period and ensure the completion of the existing low-margin projects, six Premium BioGrid members agreed to pay a higher membership fee. We are grateful to these Premium members for their support during this period.

Premium members:

- Austin Health
- Melbourne Health
- University of Melbourne
- Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre
- Walter and Eliza Hall Institute
- Western Health

A key recommendation of the BioGrid Working Group was to establish a Business Advisory Committee of the BioGrid Board (to include Premium members and key clinical investigators) to monitor and review new business development activity and progress. It was also recommended that an enhanced Audit, Finance & Risk Committee of the BioGrid Board include Premium members so that more direct monitoring and review of business model progress against expectation can be achieved.

This year we established the Business Advisory Committee (BAC), charged with monitoring and reviewing on a quarterly basis new business development activity and progress, and address issues promptly with stakeholders. The BAC is chaired by James Dromey (MCRI) and its members are Paul Barrett, Peter Gibbs (WEHI), Maarten Ijzerman (University of Melbourne) and Ray Van Kuyk (Austin Health).

In addition, the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee was enhanced with David Polonsky as Chair and Chris Arnold and George Kapitelli as its members. George Kapitelli resigned from Melbourne Health in January 2019 and was replaced on this committee in February 2019 by Glenn Murphy from Melbourne Health.

The Board membership was also reviewed to ensure the Board contained the requisite skill base as required to operate successfully. At this point there were also two directors wishing to step down and one current vacancy. New directors, Dr James Dromey and Dr Paul Cooper, were appointed to the Board in August 2018. Dr Julian Clark resigned as director effective in April 2018 and Prof Bryan Williams resigned as director in January 2019.

Business Development

An outcome of the business and governance review in the 2017-18 financial year was the engagement of Dr Henry De Aizpurua (former COO and Head, Business Development, The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health), to assist with delivering the KPIs developed by the BioGrid Working Group on behalf of the members.

Dr De Aizpurua completed a three-month engagement, helping develop BioGrid's value proposition, case studies and marketing collateral. Part of this work included reviewing the BioGrid brand identity with input from BioGrid's members. Working with our design partner, we developed refreshed branding with an updated logo, a new tag line, Connecting health information, and updated brand assets. The new branding honours our journey so far and clearly presents BioGrid as a modern technology company with a focus on health information.



Following the work done by Dr De Aizpurua, informal but focused engagement occurred with key opinion leaders, the pharmaceutical industry, contract research organisations (CROs) and clinical trial groups to drive new business activity for BioGrid. This was very successful, revealing that while our potential market was receptive to our offering, more education and outreach was required about the clear benefits and value of working with BioGrid.

The new BioGrid website with the refreshed branding will be implemented in the 2020 financial year, reflecting the work done on our value proposition and including the new case studies. Next financial year the focus will turn to finalising marketing collateral for researchers and industry.

This work was designed to reposition BioGrid in our sector as a mature business with extensive expertise in our field, and clearly communicate our value proposition to existing and prospective clients.

New work

A key element of the new BioGrid business model was appropriate pricing of the work done for clients. In this financial year we successfully negotiated and executed two pieces of work, the development of a new clinical cancer registry and the upgrade of an existing registry under the new pricing model.

In addition, we finalised the funding arrangements for the new MRFF-funded Australian Rare Cancer Portal for the Australian Cancer Genomics Medicine Centre, operated from the Garvan Institute. Work commenced on this portal during this financial year and is expected to be completed for launch in 2019-20.

Projects

VCCC Data Driven Research Hub

Linked data resources are becoming increasingly important for cancer services research since patients interact with the health system using many different health services, each with their own data collections. The Australian Government's 2013 report 'Strategic Review of Health and Medical Research' led by Mr Simon McKeon AO highlighted that data-driven health systems and health services research are key to improving the productivity and effectiveness of Australian healthcare systems.

To this end, the VCCC Data Driven Research Hub (DDRH) will be a linked data resource incorporating primary care, hospital and cancer registry data from Victoria. Primary care is the first point of contact for many patients' interactions with the health system so such a resource fills an important gap in clinical data science research infrastructure.

BioGrid is providing the data linkage for the hospital admissions, emergency presentations and primary care data sets.

Currently the DDRH contains:

- Around 2 million patient records
- More than 32 million GP encounters or visits
- Over 34 million observations
- 8 million items of diagnosis information
- 84 million items of pathology data

The data linkage is provided through the BioGrid platform, where we also manage the unified governance and ethics processes. This is the largest linked primary care data resource in Australia, and a useful resource for researchers and analysts interested in understanding Victorian patients' utilisation of health services.

Indigenous Cardiovascular Health Services Research Project

This year BioGrid contracted with the Melbourne Academic Centre for Health (MACH) for the Indigenous Cardiovascular Health Services Research project, \$105,000 over 2 years. This work will commence in the next financial year.

This is a collaboration that partners Indigenous health researchers and clinicians with data scientists, biostatisticians and health economists. We will link clinical data collected by Australian general practices (GPs), hospitals, and government agencies to determine how variation in cardiovascular (CV) risk, clinical events and treatment influences Indigenous and non-Indigenous health outcomes. The project is aiming to answer several important questions including:

- What factors place Indigenous Australians at increased risk of CV disease?
- Are existing risk assessment scores accurate and, if not, can we create a new score that more accurately predicts CV risk among Indigenous Australians?
- How does current implementation of evidence-based CV care differ for Indigenous vs non-Indigenous Australians?
- Does evidence-based CV care improve health outcomes among Indigenous Australians and, if so, by what magnitude?
- How can administrative health services data be used to advance Victorian Aboriginal nation building efforts?

ePAD Clinical Registry

Prostate cancer is the most common non-cutaneous cancer in Australian men, with more than 24,000 new cases identified each year and the incidence predicted to increase further due to the ageing population. It's also the third leading cause of cancer death among men, so identifying the most effective treatment regime is a critical focus for clinicians.

ePAD (Electronic Prostate cancer Australian Database) was developed in 2016 to support clinicians by collecting real world information about patients with advanced prostate cancer.

This year BioGrid continued to support the ePAD registry through hosting and managing the ePAD database. Funding for this initiative was extended for a further year, April 2019 to March 2020. Funders for this additional period were Amgen, Astellas, and AstraZeneca.

[Read the Case Study](#)

Australasian Diabetes Data Network

The Australasian Diabetes Date Network (ADDN) was established in 2012 to share data between Australasia's diabetes centres within a comprehensive ethics and governance framework, to improve clinical care for people with diabetes and inform health policy.

Phase 2 of ADDN commenced in early 2016 and included expansion to additional paediatric sites and some adult diabetes centres. The focus of ADDN2 was on establishing the website and Registry, improving the completeness and quality of the data, and collaborating with researchers to use the data to answer important clinical questions.

In this financial year BioGrid continued supporting the ADDN program through the provision of adult diabetes centre data from across Australia to the ADDN database and linkage between the paediatric and adult data within ADDN.

Projects

Australian Psoriasis Registry

In March 2019 BioGrid signed an agreement with Skin and Cancer Foundation to host and link the Australian Psoriasis Registry (APR) and provide reporting for the APR team.

GenV: Newborn Biospecimen Collection

Generation Victoria, often called GenV, is a research program that is happening across all of Victoria. GenV is led from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, supported by the Royal Children's Hospital, and University of Melbourne, and funded by the Paul Ramsay Foundation (PRF), the Victorian Government, and the Royal Children's Hospital Foundation.

GenV is the largest childhood research project in Australia. It is painting a picture of how children grow and develop, how people age, and how health changes across generations. It creates the building blocks to help researchers, communities and policy makers to improve health and wellbeing together.

GenV is designed to understand what might affect family and children's health, with a view to finding better ways to treat and prevent problems like pre-term birth, common allergies, anxiety, obesity, and much more. By 2035, GenV's vision is to have solved complex issues facing our children and the adults they become.

Generation Victoria will achieve this by:

- Gaining consent for over 100,000 newborns, and their parents, all across Victoria, over 2020 to 2022
- Banking biospecimens from these participants for later assays
- Linking their data from existing health and education services into a coherent whole
- Collecting data directly from participants through digital channels
- Making the data available to researchers and analysts under appropriate governance
- Supporting researchers and analysts in translation

The project is supported by \$24.5 million in philanthropic support and \$16 million from the Victorian Government.

Focus areas for the program are:

- Infection, Immunity & Allergy
- Development & Learning
- Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Obesity & Diabetes
- Healthy Environments
- Organ Health

Data linkage is critical to GenV's success, so the program will be collaborating with BioGrid to leverage our extensive experience in data linkage. Potential outcomes from the collaboration:

- Uplift in GenV's capability for data linkage
- Data governance and ethics frameworks that support effective agreements with data custodians
- Multiple data linkage systems operating under different governance structures
 - Potentially: 1) within MCRI network; 2) with GPs within BioGrid; and 3) within Births, Deaths & Marriages
- Implementation of scientific analysis and visualisation environments for researchers and analysts that operate under rigorous governance structures

[Find out more about the GenV program](#)



Student Project

In 2019-20, BioGrid partnered with students from the University of Melbourne's Masters program on a real-world market analysis project for BioGrid Australia. The students, Fan Zhang, Smritha Venkataramanan, Andrew Hansen, Will Ryan and Nick Allen, focused on what could be improved in BioGrid's sales model in the pharmaceutical industry.

After an extensive analysis of BioGrid's market position, competitive advantages and current activity, the team presented six valuable and actionable recommendations for engaging the pharmaceutical industry. These recommendations will be revisited as part of BioGrid's business development activities over the next few years.

Directors' Report



Dr Robert Grenfell

MBBS, MPH, FAFPHM, MAICD

**Director since October 2017;
Chair since September 2018**

Director – Health and Biosecurity, CSIRO, (2015 – present)

Director, Grenfell Health Consulting (1997 – present)

Director, Maree Stopes Health (2011 – 2016)

Chair, General Practice Victoria (2007 – 2010)

Director, General Practice Victoria (1998 – 2007)



Associate Professor Paul Cooper

BSc, PhD, GradDip Bus, FACHI,
CHIA, GAICD

**Director since August 2018 and Deputy Chair since
September 2018**

Director, Calliston Consultants Pty Ltd, (2016 to present)

Secretary, Health Informatics society Australia, Victorian Branch
(2017 – present)

Director, Digital Health, Department of Health and Human
Services, Victorian Government (2017 – 2018)

Director, Victorian Continence Resource Centre (2015 – present)



Mr Christopher Arnold AM
AM B Comm, MBA, FCPA, FAICD,
APACHSM

Director since March 2014

Executive Director, Skin & Cancer Foundation Inc., (2010 – present)
Director, Melba Opera Trust (2017 – present)
Director, Christ Church Grammar Foundation (2012 – 2018)
Director, Skin & Cancer Foundation Inc (2009 – present)
Chairman, Telediagnosics Pty Ltd (2010 – 2016)
Principal, Hodgson Associates (2009– present)
Chairman, Human Variome Project International Ltd (2014 – 2017)
Director, Human Variome Project International Ltd (2008 – 2017)
Director Philanthropy Australia (2003 – 2009)



Dr James Dromey
BSc PhD

Director since August 2018

Chief Operating Officer, Murdoch Children's Research Institute
(2016 – present)
Director, GI Therapies, September (2012 – present)
Director, Prota Therapeutics, September (2016 – present)
Director Australian Communities Foundation (1999 – 2007)

Directors' Report



Mr David Polonsky
B Bus, CA, TIA, MAICD

Director since January 2015

Director, DRP Consulting Pty Ltd, (1996 – present)

Director, Moore Stephens (Vic) Pty Ltd (formerly Nexia Melbourne Pty Ltd), (2011-2017)

Director, Private Ancillary Funds (various to present)

Director Spirit of Australia Foundation (2018 to present)



Professor Karin Verspoor
BA, MSc, PhD, GCUT

Director since August 2016

Deputy Head of Research, School of Computing and Information Systems, University of Melbourne (2015 – present)

Deputy Director, ARC Industrial Transformation Training Centre in Cognitive Computing for Medical Technologies (2018 – present)

Fellow, Centre for Business Analytics, Melbourne Business School (2015 – present)

Deputy Director, Health and Biomedical Informatics Centre, University of Melbourne (2014 – present)

President, Australasian Language Technology Association (ALTA) (2013 – 2014)

Scientific Director, Health and Life Sciences, National ICT Australia (NICTA) (2012 – 2014)



Professor Bryan Williams

PhD, Hon FRSNZ

Director since March 2009; Chair March 2009 – September 2018, Resigned January 2019

Emeritus Director and Distinguished Scientist, Hudson Institute of Medical Research, (2017 – present)

Institute Director and CEO, Hudson Institute of Medical Research (2014 – 2017)

Director, Monash Institute of Medical Research (2006 – 2013)

Director, Pacific Edge Ltd (New Zealand) (2013 – present)

Director, Pacific Edge Pty Ltd (Australia) (2008 – present)

Director, Cancer Trials Australia Pty Ltd, (2009 – 2014)

Director and Chairman, MEI Pharma Inc. (2006 – 2013)

Member of the Victorian Cancer Agency Consultative Council (2009 – 2012)

Director, Centre for Cancer Research, Monash Institute of Medical Research (2006 – 2012)

Professor, Department of Genetics, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, USA, (1993 – 2005)

Chairman, Department of Cancer Biology, Lerner Research Institute, The Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Cleveland, USA, (1991 – 2005)

Directors' Report

Meetings attended

The following outlines meetings held and attended by each of the Directors in 2018-19.

Director	Board of Directors		Finance, Audit & Risk Committee		Business Advisory Committee	
	Held	Attended	Held	Attended	Held	Attended
Rob Grenfell	6	6				
Paul Cooper	5	4				
Chris Arnold	6	6	5	4		
James Dromey	5	5			4	4
David Polonsky	6	6	5	5		
Karin Verspoor	6	6				
Bryan Williams	4	1				

Member Representatives on Committees

George Kapitelli (Melbourne Health)		1	1		
Glenn Murphy (Melbourne Health)		3	2		
Paul Barrett (University of Melbourne)				4	4
Peter Gibbs (Western Health)				4	4
Maarten Ijzerman (Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre)				4	4
Ray Van Kuyk (Austin Health)				4	3

Contribution in winding up

The entity is incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 and is a company limited by guarantee. As such, no shares are issued or held by directors. If the entity is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$10 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the entity. At 30 June 2019 the amount the members of the Company are liable to contribute if the Company wound up is \$350 (the number of members was 35).

Principal activities

The principal activities of the Company are data sharing that advances health research by linking privacy-protected and ethically approved clinical, imaging, biospecimen and genetic data among a wide network of health collaborators. During the year there was no significant change in the nature of those activities.

Company's objectives

The company's objectives are to:

- Facilitate internationally competitive medical research into the causes of ill health and disease;
- Provide an ethically approved privacy-protected service to connect data sources;
- Invest in technology development to ensure ongoing alignment with leading technology that supports privacy-protected data connection; and
- Be sustainable in order to fulfill the company's vision and mission and to service the needs of its' members.

To achieve these objectives, the Company:

- Supported major research program initiatives by providing data linkage and data management services for state and federal funded cancer research projects;
- Worked with key stakeholders in the health sector to facilitate major research projects in Victoria and Australia;
- Provided ongoing training and support for quality specialist staff committed to providing a technology platform that supports medical research through privacy-protected data connection; and
- Redeveloped the business development model for members and industry to support the long-term viability of the company.

Key performance measures

The company measures its own performance through the use of both quantitative and qualitative benchmarks. The benchmarks are used by the directors to assess whether the company's short-term and long-term objectives are being achieved.

	2019		2018	
	Actual	Benchmark	Actual	Benchmark
Total Number of Members/Collaborators	41*	43	40*	40
Current Institution Ethics Approvals	38	40	38	40
Approved Active Research Projects	156	153	133	120
Journal Publications to Date	256	272	236	229
% Income from Membership Subscriptions	36%	20%	44%	20%

*At 30 June 2019 there are 35 member and 6 non-member collaborator institutions, a total of 41 BioGrid Australia collaborators.

Dividends

The Company Constitution forbids the payment or distribution of any profits, income or assets to the members.

Directors' Remuneration

The directors did not receive remuneration from the company with the exception of expenses relating to their director role.

Indemnification of officers and auditors

During the year the Company paid a premium in respect of a contract insuring the directors of the Company, the Company secretary and all executive officers of the Company and of any related body corporate against a liability incurred as such a director, secretary or executive officer to the extent permitted by the Corporations Act 2001. The Company has not otherwise, during or since the year, indemnified or agreed to indemnify an officer or auditor of the Company or of any related body corporate against a liability incurred as such an officer or auditor.

Critical accounting estimates and judgements

The company recorded a surplus of \$234,515 for the year ended 30 June 2019 (2018: \$95,096). The directors are pleased to report that the governance and business development initiatives undertaken during the year has allowed the Company to continue to trade profitably and operate with a positive net cash flow position which has allowed the Company to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

The directors continue to work closely with key stakeholders who have and continue to show their support for the Company and its future operations.

The Company remains the only collaboration network in Australia with the legal and ethical framework to enable the sharing of real-time health and medical data for research. Accordingly, it is well positioned to take advantage of opportunities as they arise nationally and internationally.

The Company continues to develop and improve its national data linkage platform in collaboration with key suppliers using global vendor hardware and software.

Having considered the above factors, the directors have concluded that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due. Should the Company be unable to continue as a going concern, it may be appropriate to realise its assets and discharge its liabilities at amounts different to those stated in the financial report.

Events subsequent to balance date

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected, or may significantly affect, the operations of the Company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Company in future financial years.

Likely developments in the operations of the Company, and the expected results of those operations in future financial years, have not been included in this report as the inclusion of such information is likely to result in unreasonable prejudice to the Company.

Auditor's Independence Declaration

The lead auditor's independence declaration for the year ended 30 June 2019 has been received and can be found on page 20 of this report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

On behalf of the Directors



Rob Grenfell, Director



David Polonsky, Director

Date: 24 September 2019

BioGrid Australia Limited
31 136 185 647

Auditor's Independence Declaration

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2019 there have been:

- a) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in Section 60.40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- b) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



Saward Dawson



Jeffrey Tulk
Partner

Blackburn, Victoria 3130
Dated: 24 September 2019

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Financial Report

Statement of Income and Expenditure and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
Revenue	2	1,966,185	1,659,611
Consultant expenses	3	(1,491,408)	(1,316,524)
License fees		(113,267)	(96,947)
Operational Expenses		(85,725)	(51,429)
Professional fees		(40,520)	(51,064)
Doubtful debt recovery / (expense)		26,859	(26,859)
Depreciation and amortisation		(22,832)	(13,010)
Bank charges		(948)	(1,067)
Other expenses		(3,829)	(7,615)
Surplus from ordinary activities		234,515	95,096
Other comprehensive income:			
Items that will be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss when specific conditions are met		-	-
Total other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		234,515	95,096

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	33,554	174,877
Trade and other receivables	5	1,023,152	318,332
Other assets	6	6,476	95,499
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		1,063,182	588,708
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	7	42,955	2,039
Intangible assets	8	74,294	39,492
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		117,249	41,531
TOTAL ASSETS		1,180,431	630,239
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	9	292,494	336,733
Borrowings	10	75,000	–
Other liabilities	11	557,648	272,732
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		925,142	609,465
TOTAL LIABILITIES		925,142	609,465
NET ASSETS		255,289	20,774
EQUITY			
Accumulated surpluses		255,289	20,774
TOTAL EQUITY		255,289	20,774

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

2019	Accumulated Surpluses \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2018	20,774	20,774
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	234,515	234,515
Balance at 30 June 2019	255,289	255,289

2018	Accumulated Surpluses \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2017	(74,322)	(74,322)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	95,096	95,096
Balance at 30 June 2018	20,774	20,774

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
- Receipts from customers		1,807,386	1,959,154
- Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,925,159)	(1,789,259)
- Interest received		-	3
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	12	(117,773)	169,898
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
- Acquisition of property, plant and equipment		(47,347)	-
- Payment for intangible asset		(51,203)	-
Net cash used by investing activities		(98,550)	-
CASH FLOWS FROM OTHER ACTIVITIES:			
- Funds spent on behalf of Global Variome		-	(29,019)
- Proceeds from borrowings		75,000	(29,019)
Net cash increase (decreases) in cash and cash equivalents		(141,323)	140,879
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		174,877	33,998
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	4	33,554	174,877

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

Note 1 Accounting policies

(a) General information

BioGrid Australia Limited is a Company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

The directors have prepared the financial reports on the basis that the company is a non-reporting entity because there are no users who are dependent on its general purpose financial reports. These financial reports are therefore special purpose financial reports that have been prepared in order to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. The company is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

(b) Basis of preparation

The financial reports have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the mandatory Australian Accounting Standards applicable to entities reporting under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the significant accounting policies disclosed below, which the directors have determined are appropriate to meet the needs of members.

The financial reports, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs unless otherwise stated in notes. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

(c) Revenue

Revenue from the rendering of services is recognised upon delivery of the service to customers. Portions that are deemed not yet earned or matched against expenditure are recorded as income received in advance on the statement of financial position. Where the grant or contract relates to support of payments to fixed term employees, these are recognised over an equal period over the life of the contract.

Grant revenue is recognised in the statement income and expenditure and other comprehensive income when the entity obtains control of the grant and it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the company and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably.

Donations are recognised as revenue when received.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(d) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within short-term borrowings in current liabilities in the statement of financial position.

(e) Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables include outstanding funds invoiced to customers for membership fees and completed projects or milestones. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets.

(f) Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairment losses. Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the asset.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all plant and equipment is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life to BioGrid Australia Limited commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

(g) Intangibles

Amortisation

Amortisation is recognised in profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of intangible assets, from the date that they are available for use.

Amortisation methods, useful lives and residual values are reviewed at each reporting date and adjusted if appropriate.

Software

Software has a finite life and is carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and impairment losses. It has an estimated useful life of between three and five years.

Note 1 Accounting policies continued

(h) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

(i) Income taxes

No current or deferred income tax assets or liabilities have been raised by the company as it is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*. The company is a registered charity under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

(j) Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the Company during the reporting period which remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

(k) Going concern

The company recorded a surplus of \$234,515 for the year ended 30 June 2019 (2018: \$95,096). The directors are pleased to report that the governance and business development initiatives undertaken during the year has allowed the Company to continue to trade profitably and operate with a positive net cash flow position which has allowed the Company to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

The directors continue to work closely with key stakeholders who have and continue to show their support for the Company and its future operations.

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The Company continues to develop and improve its national data linkage platform in collaboration with key suppliers using global vendor hardware and software.

Having considered the above factors, the directors have concluded that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due. Should the Company be unable to continue as a going concern, it may be appropriate to realise its assets and discharge its liabilities at amounts different to those stated in the financial report.

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Note 2 Revenue		
Operating revenue		
– Commercial-led projects	240,820	460,546
– Member subscriptions	708,298	728,094
– Investigator-led projects	458,471	327,646
– Donations	7,602	4,822
– Grants	537,994	130,000
– Interest received	–	3
– Other income	13,000	8,500
Total Revenue	1,966,185	1,659,611
Note 3 Consultant expenses		
Consultant expenses include payments to Melbourne Health who provide staff contract and payroll services to BioGrid.		
Note 4 Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash at bank	33,554	174,877
	33,554	174,877
Note 5 Trade and other receivables		
CURRENT		
Accounts receivable	1,023,152	347,877
Provision for doubtful debts	–	(29,545)
	1,023,152	318,332
Note 6 Other assets		
CURRENT		
Prepayments	6,476	95,499
	6,476	95,499
Note 7 Plant and equipment		
Plant and equipment		
At cost	88,714	42,908
Less accumulated depreciation	(45,759)	(40,869)
Total plant and equipment	42,955	2,039
Note 8 Intangible assets		
Computer software		
At cost	52,000	52,000
Less accumulated amortisation	(22,908)	(12,508)
Net carrying value	29,092	39,492
Website Development		
At cost	51,203	–
Less accumulated amortisation	(6,001)	–
Net carrying value	45,202	–
Total Intangibles	74,294	39,492

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Note 9 Trade and other payables		
CURRENT		
Trade payables	174,927	227,400
Accruals	37,484	92,617
GST payable	80,083	16,716
	<u>292,494</u>	<u>336,733</u>

Note 10 Borrowings

CURRENT		
Short term interest-free loan	75,000	-
	<u>75,000</u>	<u>-</u>

Note 11 Other Liabilities

CURRENT		
Membership income received in advance	-	272,732
Grant income received in advance	557,648	-
	<u>557,648</u>	<u>272,732</u>

Note 12 Cash flow information

Reconciliation of cash flow from operations with net current year deficit		
Net result for the year	234,515	95,096
Cash flows excluded from surplus attributable to operating activities		
- Depreciation and amortisation	22,832	13,010
- Provision for doubtful debts	(29,545)	26,859
Changes in assets and liabilities		
- (Increase)/decrease in trade and term receivables	(675,275)	(63,349)
- (Increase)/decrease in other assets	89,023	(89,054)
- (Increase)/decrease in trade payables	(44,239)	7,385
- Increase/(decrease) in other liabilities	284,916	179,951
	<u>(117,773)</u>	<u>169,898</u>

Note 13 Company Details

The registered office of the Company is:

BioGrid Australia Limited
Level 8, CMR Building
Royal Melbourne Hospital
300 Grattan St, Parkville Victoria 3052

BioGrid Australia Limited

31 136 185 647

Directors' Declaration

The Directors have determined that the Company is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The Directors of the Company declare that:

- (a) the financial report and notes are prepared in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, and;
- (b) In the Directors' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15 (2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.



Robert Grenfell
Director



David Polonsky
Director

Date: 24 September 2019

Independent Audit Report to the members of BioGrid Australia Limited

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of BioGrid Australia Limited (the Company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019, the statement of income and expenditure and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Company is in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- a. giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2019 and of its financial performance for the year ended; and

- b. complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

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Emphasis of Matter

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report is prepared to assist BioGrid Australia Limited to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Responsibilities of Directors for the Financial Report

The Directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



Seward Dawson



Jeffrey Tulk
Partner

Blackburn, Victoria
Dated: 24 September 2019

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